

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced \$23,750 for the Whitney Point Fire Department today through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program for fire prevention and safety.

"Local first responders put their lives on the line to protect our families and businesses and I am proud to announce this grant to make sure they have the best equipment available," **said Arcuri, a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus**

. "Since taking office, I have consistently supported increased funding for the fire grant program to make sure local first responders have all the tools they need to keep us safe - without increasing the local tax burden."

The Whitney Point Fire Department will use these funds to purchase an emergency backup generator.

"This is a huge investment for the department," **said Whitney Point Deputy Fire Chief Michael Sura**

. "It will ensure our vital functions and support every day operations like the radio station and charging equipment that depend on having electricity at the station. We are also a secondary shelter for the Red Cross and being able to have running water, heat and refrigerate food is important – especially with the flooding we've had"

Since taking office, Arcuri has announced over \$162,275 in Assistance to Firefighter Grants for emergency first responders in Broome County.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP) awards grants to firefighters, emergency response personnel and first responders to enhance response capabilities and to more effectively protect the health and safety of first responders and the citizens in their communities. AFGP grants provide resources for training, first responder health and safety programs, and response equipment and vehicles.

Since 2004, including 2008 awards, AFGP has provided nearly \$2.75 billion nationwide to first-responder organizations to purchase response equipment, personal protective equipment,

and vehicles. In fiscal year 2008, AFGP will award approximately \$500 million directly to fire departments and EMS organizations to enhance their response capabilities.

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